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AMERICAN ART NEWS

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ANONYMOUS ART SALES

When the Anderson Galleries of New York tried out last season the novel plan of offering pictures for sale anonymously for the highest price tendered, the management probably had little idea that its scheme would attract as much attention as now proves to be the case. Philadelphia and Los Angeles are following this lead already, the one with a gallery devoted to anonymous art, the other with a scheme for selling pictures almost precisely as they were sold at the Anderson Galleries.

The Philadelphia plan is to establish a gallery where all works shown will be without the artist's name, thus leaving the public free to exercise its choice without taking a painter's reputation into consideration. No details have been announced as to the selling plan, but that the prices asked for the pictures will be lower than artists generally demand is a probability, and one that will have to be adopted if the enterprise is to succeed. But there is one feature that should not be overlooked. The pictures, after being sold, must be signed. If the artist's anonymity should be preserved, the buyer would be shorn of the privilege of knowing the author of his picture, and this might lead to complications that would be important if, in later years, the painter of a particular canvas should grow to be a man of great reputation. Moreover, price cutting under the veil of anonymity would be distinctly unfair to regular art dealers handling such men's work in season and out of season.

The Los Angeles Museum adopted, for the recent exhibition of the California Water Color Society, what is styled an "offer box" in which buyers put slips on which were written the prices they were willing to give for certain pictures in the show, this being precisely what was done at the Anderson Galleries. In a statement regarding this plan printed in the Los Angeles Times we note that a reservation is made that the highest offer made for a picture "may" be accepted by the artist, which was not the rule followed in the Sigurd Schou sale here last season, and which tends to eliminate the "sporting" element of the original plan.

The worst feature of anonymous selling is price cutting, something that will affect both the regular dealer and the artist himself; for if it becomes known that an artist is offering his work anonymously at lower figures than when his name is attached, the art buying public will be filled with mistrust.

MASTERPIECES AND MENUS

Easel pictures and mural painting as aids to the successful conduct of eating places was one of the chief recommendations made at the annual convention of the National Restaurant As-

sociation held in Washington recently. The decorations of a dining hall were declared to be of far more importance than the food, and the assembled delegates voiced the general opinion that the average patron of a good restaurant cared more for what he looked at while eating than for what he put into his stomach; that long after the diners had forgotten what they had eaten in a restaurant or hotel dining-room, they would be filled with the desire to return on account of the charm of outward appearance.

But the most interesting feature of the discussion was the general recommendation that restaurant proprietors go out into the art world and buy paintings for their walls. The members were told to "watch art exhibitions and make offers; even if a very high price is paid the indirect advertising will bring the money back home."

Readers of THE AMERICAN ART NEWS do not have to be very old to recall the days when the easel picture was the most conspicuous adornment of American hotel corridors, parlors and restaurants. Many old-time barrooms were celebrated for their collections of paintings; and there are not many private collections of native pictorial art that can compare in quality with the one assembled by Samuel T. Shaw in the Grand Union Hotel of other days. That these pictures attracted a considerable patronage to the hotels where they were hung in very well known; and when the American restaurant proprietors of today discuss returning to this old plan they are very well advised.

The "period room" style of decoration is all very well in its way; but its monotony is not so conducive to conversation or good cheer as a wall covered with paintings whose varied subjects suggest personal experiences and whose color schemes may have an effect of raising the spirits of restaurant patrons who in these days are denied the right of such good cheer as may be obtained in the eating places of London or Paris. We join our artist readers in the hope that every restaurant proprietor in the United States will take this relation of masterpieces and menus to heart and hang his walls with the excellent paintings of contemporary American artists.

American Woman's Air Memorial

LONDON—An American citizen, Mrs. Louis Bennett, has presented a memorial window to Westminster Abbey in honor of the British Flying Service, with which her only son met his death. The window, carried out by Harry Gylls, represents the Archangel Michael, whom airmen have adopted as their guardian saint, with flying figures. It looks down on the "Unknown Warrior's" grave, which it illumines with its glow. Fine feeling has been shown in omitting the name of the donor's son. It is a tribute to an entire force.

Grief Drove Mme. Sembat to Suicide

PARIS—When Mme. Sembat, known in the art world as Georgette Agutte, committed suicide from grief at her husband's death, she left a note worded: "I am joining him. I am twelve hours late already." Mme. Sembat-Agutte was a powerful painter. She was fond of color and introduced a decorative element in her large still life and figure compositions. Her husband, who was deputy for Paris, and had been Minister of State during the war, had written a book on Matisse.

Autumn Salon to Depict Sports

PARIS—The forthcoming Salon d'Automne will comprise a section entitled "Art sportif." Pictures and sculpture illustrating games and athletics are no doubt intended to be so classified. A special committee has been appointed for the organization of this department which includes the names of M. Georges Desvallieres, already associated with sections of religious art, and Dunoyer de Segonzac well-known for his drawings of boxers and of Isadora Duncan.

"Fondation Americaine" Fellowships

PARIS—The twelve fellowships distributed by the "Fondation Americaine pour l'art et la pensee francais," presided over by Mrs. George Blumenthal with a committee of benefactors comprising Pierpont Morgan, have been awarded to MM. Jigon and Traverse, in sculpture; M. Le Breton, in engraving; Mlle. Cormier and M. André Frayé, in painting; MM. Rivaud, P. Legrain, C. Linossier, L. Guyot, in applied art, and M. Desormieres, in music.

Sargent Decorating a Library

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.—John S. Sargent is now engaged on the decorations for the Widener library of Harvard University, the third series which he has executed for New England institutions. The decorations are based upon the theme of "War and Peace."

Obituary

FLORENCE K. UPTON.

Florence K. Upton, painter and illustrator, died in London October 16. She was born in Flushing, N. Y., studied here with Kenyon Cox and in Paris and Holland. She was a member of the Societe Nationale des Beaux-Arts of Paris and was awarded the medal of honor at the International Exposition at Nantes in 1905. She had lived in London for many years and painted many portraits of well known American and English men and women. At the time of the war Miss Upton sold at auction in London the original drawings and the dolls used in illustrating her children's books, contributing the \$3,000 realized for an ambulance.

BERT HARWOOD

Bert Harwood, painter, died at his studio-home in Taos, New Mexico. He received his art education in the Academy of Design in Chicago and in France, where he lived for many years. He is survived by his wife and a sister, Mrs. S. Potts of Charles City, Ia.

EDMUND BLAIR LEIGHTON

Edmund Blair Leighton, R. I., is dead in London. He was the son of Charles Blair Leighton, an artist of distinction, and was born in 1853. His first picture was shown in the Royal Academy in 1878.

GABRIEL SEAILLES

Gabriel Seailles, author of books on Alfred Dehodencq, Leonardo da Vinci, Watteau and Eugene Carriere, whose friend he was, died at Barbizon, aged seventy.

Ancient Greeks Played a Game Like Hockey, a Newly Found Relief Shows

LONDON—Nothing is new under the sun—not even the game of hockey. This fact has been established by the discovery in Athens of a relief in which six youths are playing a game of ball with sticks curved exactly after the manner of the modern hockey stick. Incidentally the marble throws light on the carvings of similar sticks—hitherto known as "sickles"—that appear on votive offerings to Artemis.

Two Notable Exhibits at Ainslie's

Miss Della Shull's nineteen portraits, that have been on exhibition in the Ainslie Galleries, are distinguished by the bold and varied manner in which this young artist attacked her varying problems of character, costume and pose and by the strength and charm of her palette. Her full length standing self-portrait is a softly brilliant work and the likenesses of Robert Henri and of Mrs. Henri are very distinguished as to notations of character. "The Guitar Player" shows how Miss Shull can treat a white costume with complete success.

Mrs. E. Kirtland's flower paintings and two landscapes, which were exhibited at the same time, are equally competent as painting and as color schemes, the "Snowing at Riverdale" having a delicacy that showed the range of this painter's powers when compared with the vigor of her flower studies. The "Cat in Basket" is another admirable performance, particularly in the handling of the soft, furry coat of the amusing tabby.

Portrait by Duran Recovered

LONDON—There was recently discovered in the storeroom of the Hotel Claridge a portrait by Carolus Duran, which had been given up by its owner as lost for fifteen years. The portrait, painted in 1887, had for its subject the wife of an American, General A. C. Whittier. When Mrs. Whittier died in America twenty years later General Whittier, desiring to be near his daughter, the Princess Serge Beloselsky Belozersky, sent the picture to the Claridge, carefully packed, and followed on a later boat, but died on the way. The princess never knew what became of the portrait, which remained unclaimed, and her chance remark about its disappearance, to some one connected with the Claridge, led to its recovery.

Memorial for Solon H. Borglum

To commemorate the life and artistic influence of Solon H. Borglum some of his friends and associates have combined to raise a fund for a memorial to him. It is proposed that the fund shall be applied to the placing in the porch of St. Mark's church, New Canaan, Conn., a window designed by J. Putnam Brinley and made by J. and R. Lamb, and also to the publication of Borglum's book on "Sound Construction." Contributions will be received by John D. Fearhake, treasurer of the Solon H. Borglum Memorial Fund, 60 Broadway, New York.

Francisco Durrio Honored

PARIS—Francisco Durrio, French-Spanish sculptor and potter, has been awarded the Legion of Honor.

Studio Gossip

Rowena Meeks Abdy has become known as the artist who paints from a sedan. She has made some of her best sketches of San Francisco streets while riding about in her car. Among her most striking canvases is "The Wall Street of San Francisco," recently on exhibition. She also has gone scenes in both oil and water color of the Chinatown district.

Frances Cranmer Greenman has painted a portrait of Olga Petrova which is being shown at the Milwaukee Art Institute.

William Walcott, British etcher and water color painter, has come to New York at the invitation of the architects of the city and will spend two months studying the town from the viewpoint of the "pictorial interpretation of architecture." He may exhibit his work while here.

A recent addition to the faculty of the Master Institute of United Arts, founded by Nicholas Roerich, is Robert Edmond Jones, who will give the course in theatre decoration and stage design at the school.

John Young-Hunter has just finished a large portrait of E. W. Scripps. The portrait was painted aboard Mr. Scripps' yacht while on a cruise along the Atlantic Coast.

Augustus Lukeman's medal for the Stock Exchange has reached its 5,000th edition. This medal was given to the guests of the recent bankers' convention by the directors of the stock exchange.

James Weiland has returned from a summer at Stony Creek where he painted many canvases, among which is a portrait of Carolina Lazzari as "Deilah," from the opera "Samson and Delilah." The portrait is now on exhibition in a Fifth Avenue window. Mr. Weiland has taken a studio in the Sherwood.

Julia M. Wickham has returned from a trip to Brazil and other South American countries.

Daniel Chester French has just completed at his Glendale, Mass., studio, his bas-relief memorial to be erected in Prospect Park, Brooklyn, to the memory of the late William H. White. His winter's work in his New York studio will be a figure of "Victory" to crown the First Division monument to be erected in Washington, D. C.

Sidney E. Dickinson and Nathan Potter have taken possession of the new studio apartment which has been remodelled for them at 112 West 54th St.

The Chicago Commission has chosen James E. Fraser and Henry Hering to execute two groups each to decorate the pylons of the new Michigan Avenue Bridge.

William Pogany has completed in his studio in the Miller Building a full-sized mural decoration for the Children's Building for the Hecksher Foundation.

Mr. and Mrs. George de Forest Brush, of Dublin, N. H., have announced the engagement of their daughter, Miss Jane Brush, to Mr. Winslow Shelby Coates, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Coates, of Montclair, N. J.

Charles A. Aiken has taken a studio at 57 West 57th street. He is giving a one-man show at the Washington Arts Club from Oct. 16 to 31, of water-color portraits and compositions, including portraits of W. H. Downes, art critic, Louis Kronberg, painter, and other well known New Englanders.

Lucy Perkins Dibley, sculptor, has just returned to New York from a six-months' visit to Italy and southern France, where she has been making a study of Byzantine sculpture. Mrs. Ripley has been invited to hold a joint exhibition with Arthur Carles of Philadelphia at the Chicago Art Institute in March.

Stanley Middleton has recently painted a portrait of Mrs. Katherine T. Jones of Montclair, N. J., and has started in this fall with a portrait of Miss Constance Banks, a debutante of last season.

St. Joseph, Mo., Wants Art Museum

ST. JOSEPH, MO.—There is a movement in St. Joseph for an art museum. A loan exhibition to awaken interest in the project was held this spring with considerable success. An effort was made to obtain from the municipality a \$400,000 bond issue to finance the project. A majority of affirmative votes was polled, but it required two-thirds to carry.

Archipenko Heads School in Berlin

BERLIN—Alexander Archipenko, Modernist, has been appointed teacher of sculpture, painting and drawing at the art school of the Kornscheuer. The Kornscheuer is a Dutch society aiming to improve the international relations of Modernist artists and promote the interchange of their works.

Geoffrey Duveen Robbed of Antiques

LONDON—Mr. Geoffrey Duveen has been the victim of a robbery at his residence, in which several valuable antiques, including much silver, was abstracted. Among this was a silver salt cellar of the Elizabethan period in the form of a man holding a shield. So far the missing objects have not been traced.